

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# ENGLISH NATION.

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Tuesday, February 18. 1706.

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I Have for a while laid aside the Discourse of the Union; I know, this Age does not love a long Story, be it never so much for their Service; besides the Recess of that Affair, or Interval rather, between its being finished in *Scotland*, and debated in *England*, seems to give a little Breathing to the Chain of the Subject.

I began in the last to look a little abroad on the Affairs of the Empire, and examine that strange *Ænigma*, which the Councils of the *Northern* and *Eastern* Parts of *Europe* present us with. Indeed War and Peace on that side of the World are equally mysterious, and no right Judgment can be yet made of either.

The Empire suffers great Shocks, and I may without Vanity say, has been for some Years in a Manner upheld by these Parts of

the World; I wish it ever manifests a Gratitude suitable to the Obligation, and must own, I do not expect it: I can give some Instances in the World, where the Protestants, *even before now*, in the Abundance of their Simplicity, *you may take the Word to mean Honesty or Folly*, which you like, have set their Hands to the supporting and upholding *Popish* Powers——But I cannot say, that ever I found the *Popish* Powers forward to make a suitable Return, or ever to pay them in Kind.

Indeed I have known, when the very Powers so upheld, *I mean Popish*, have ungratefully used that very Strength given them by the Assistance of Protestants, to the Overthrow and Destruction of the same Protestants, which they receiv'd it from——This I could give famous Instances of in  
History.

History, but need go no farther than the *Suffolk Gospellers*, of whom the Bishop of *Salisbury* in his History of the Reformation, Vol. 2. Fol. . . . gives a very impartial Account, and to embellish this, the Story of the Protestants in *France* in the Infancy of the present Monarch is very opposite.

We now see all the Protestants on this side *Europe* fighting to support this great unwieldy, half-manag'd Thing, the Empire — 'Tis true, 'tis not a War of Religion, and therefore you see the Protestant Ensigns spread in *Italy* and *Spain* to re-establish *Papish* Princes, and the Cause of the *Hungarians*, even so far as it concerns Religion, is not, nor indeed can it be espous'd, otherwise than by offering Mediation, Guarantees, and perswading to a Treaty; and while the Confederacy acts on the present Foot, we are bound to act against the *Hungarians*, and we do so by sending our Forces to supply the Room of those, the Emperor draws off to serve against them.

At the same time I am still of the Opinion, as I ever was; if the *Hungarians* might have good Terms, and refused them; if they insisted on more, than the Necessity of their religious and civil Liberties oblig'd them to, I am against them, and the whole Confederacy must be against them; we can no Way avoid it.

If, as we are now told, and I fear 'tis true, the Imperial Councils guided by such, as either do not see, or do not regard the Interest of their Country, reject the poor oppress'd People, and refuse to hearken to the just Demand of their Liberties and Religion, I confess, their taking Arms is just: But still we are so unhappily embark'd in the necessary Defence of this Confederacy; that we are capable of doing them no other Service, than by offering Mediations, Treaties, &c. and in that the Queen's Majesty and the States of *Holland* have not been wanting.

What is the Arcana, the hidden Secret, why the Emperor, who is even oppress'd in War by them, should refuse to renew the Treaty with them, or to come to any Accommodation with them, is a Mystery, I believe, not very difficult to unfold; tho' 'tis very unaccountable, that the true Reason of

it should really be a Reason at all, or that the Councils on that side of the World should be capable of so much Infatuation.

Had any Disaster befallen the Confederate Arms on that side the World; Nay, had any thing, but the Successes which have been gain'd, been the Fate of the Emperors Friends — I leave any one to judge, what Condition the Empire had now been in?

Had *Barcelona* been taken, and *Turin* taken, and to what Niceties of Providence did those Cases run? — I appeal to all the reasonable Part of the World, what had been the Effect of the War on that side, and where had the Armies of the Confederates there been push'd?

After the Victory of the Count *De Medavi* on the *Oglia*, where had the *Hessian* Troops been able to find Recess, and from what Part the World would the Empire have rais'd Men or Money for another Campaign? 'Tis true, things are otherwise, and the *English* and *Dutch* have carry'd on the War there, to the delivering the Empire from an inevitable Convulsion.

But what is this to the Empire? What Prince of any Politicks in the World would suffer his whole Fortunes, Empire, Glory, Subjects, Crown and Life to be stak'd on every trifling Accident?

How does this render his Prosperity precarious, his Friendship uncertain, his Assistance to his Confederates inconsiderable, and consequently lessen the Figure, the first Prince of *Europe* ought to make in the World! Nay, it keeps him every Hour at the Brink of his Fortunes, and liable to incurable Disorders.

Why is it, that the Empire is so alarm'd at every Turn of Affairs in the World, that may affect her? Why so apprehensive of every Motion, the smaller Princes about her make, tho' among one another? Nay, if we look farther, what makes the Emperor so justly apprehensive of the *Porr*, but that 'tis plain, if the *Turks* had a *Solyman* the Magnificent on their Throne, the Emperor was undone.

How did the *Bavarians* advance to *Passau*, alarm the Imperial Court, and *Vienna* it self was not without Apprehensions of such a Siege, as they could have had less Hopes of defend-



defending themselves against, than formerly against two hundred thousand *Turks*?

Upon the Approach of the roving *Hungarians*, how often has Fear kept that City waking, and the Inhabitants been summon'd to the Walls? Is it possible, an Emperor can bear these things, and yet reject reasonable Accommodations? I confess, had I not seen the Letters and Memorials publish'd on that Head by the *English* Ambassadors, I could not have believ'd, the Politicks of any Court in the World could sink so low!

I shall turn to the other side of *Germany*, how is the Imperial Court alarm'd at the Peace between the *Swede* and the *Saxons*, and indeed how justly, his own Weakness and other Embarrassments consider'd, and how easie would it be; nay, what a Juncture is it, for the *Swede* to toss the Emperor quite out of his Throne, when the other Embarrassments of his Friends render it impossible to assist him? But of that hereafter.

## MISCELLANEA.

**I**N my last I touch'd a little the Case of the Bill depending at this Time, Entitled for the Relief and Settlement of the Poor in *England*—— It is not my Business to debate the Heads of the Bill, nor do I know its particular Contents.

I know, the feign'd Project, some Gentlemen have been fond of in the World, and which they have had as much Vanity in publishing, as Folly in contriving, amounts among other fairer Schemes to erecting Stocks, Work-houses, Trade and Manufactures, in the respective Parishes in *England*, where the Poor shall be employ'd, and the vagrant Wretches oblig'd to work.

*England* has been always famous for her Watchfulness over, and Regard to the Prosperity of her Trade, the many Acts for the Encouragement of the Woollen Manufacture, freeing it from Imposts, Duties on Exportation, and all other Encroachments, are Witnesses of this; and I cannot think any thing so fatal to the Manufacture, as dispersing it into every Village must be, can pass an *English* Parliament.

Manufactures and Trade are in this Nation like the Blood in the Body, they subsist by their Circulation; if once that Motion ceases, is inverted, or otherwise interrupted, it stagnates and corrupts, or breaks out in Torrents beyond its ordinary Course, and these prove infallibly mortal, and incurably contagious to the Life of the Creature.

*London* is the great Center of this Circu-

lation, the Heart thro' which, by proper Pulsation, these Streams pass in their due Course; hither all the Manufactures in the Nation from the several and remotest Countries are convey'd in gross, as to the vast Center of Trade; and here they pass from the Wholesaler to the Merchant, from the Ware-house to the Shop, and from thence, by a happy Counter-changing again, are transmitted to all the several Parts of the Kingdom again; and upon this Circulation, I am bold to say, more Families depend, and are maintain'd, than upon the first Working of the whole Manufacture of the Nation.

I shall be larger on this Head in my next, but shall close this with my humble Application to all those honourable Gentlemen, who are to have this Case before them, to consider, whether the Case of the Poor in *England* does not rather require, that Laws against Vagrants, Begging, and Sloth, the true genuine, and perhaps the only Causes of Poverty, are not the properest Remedy for the Disease, the Nation now complains of, as to the Encrease of the Poor; and whether there are not sufficient Laws already made for the Settlement and Employment of such as will work, and forcing or correcting such as will not—So that it seems, the Kingdom rather wants to have those Laws already in Force, put in Execution, than more Laws made to bring this Case to a proper Conclusion.

*Whereas*